OKAY...

GOT THE
WATER BOTTLES...

WHAT ELSE...

SOUP MIX...

BREAD...

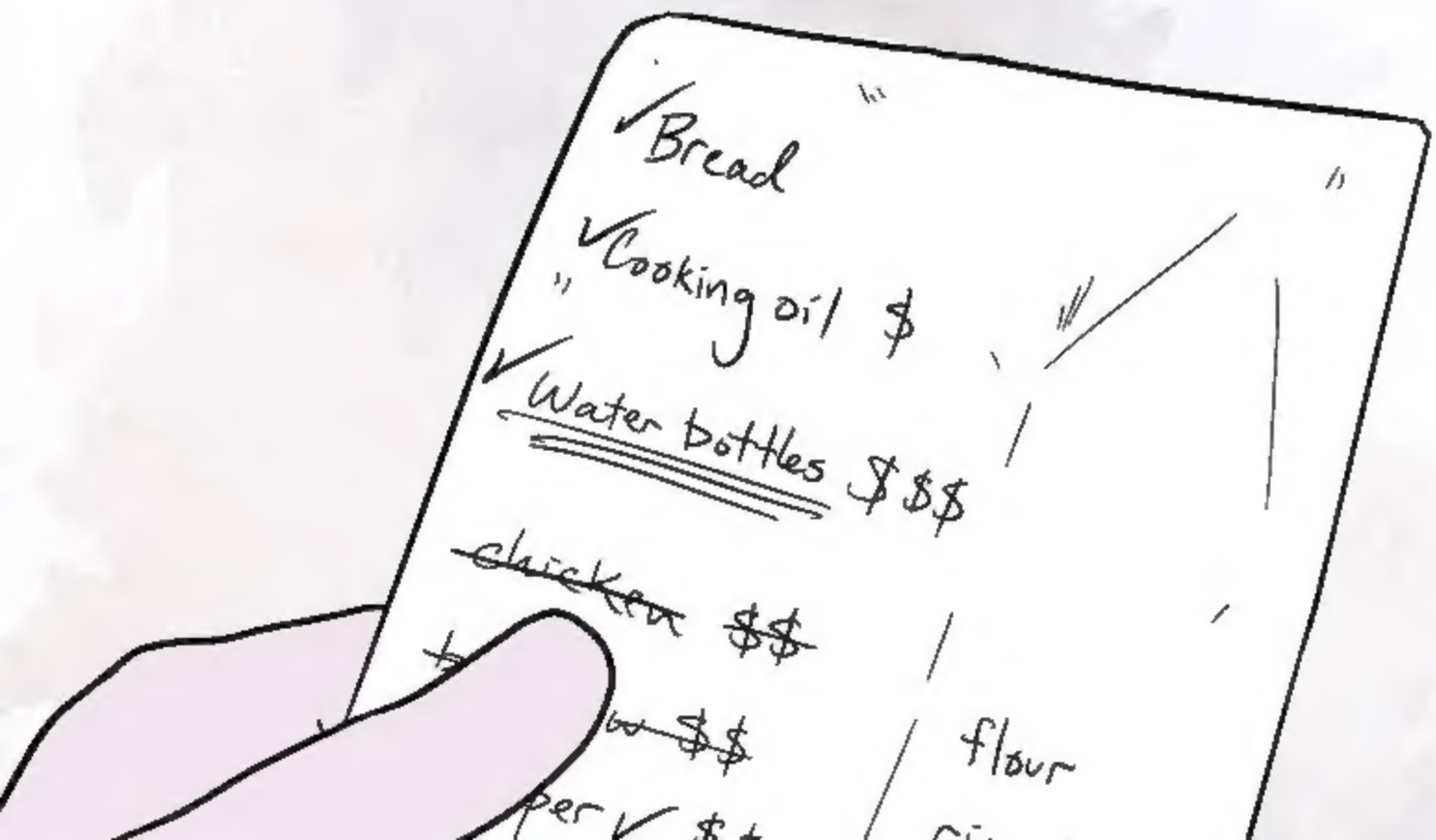
CAN'T GET THAT
UNTIL NEXT WEEK...

UGH, WHY IS EVERYTHING SO EXPENSIVE...

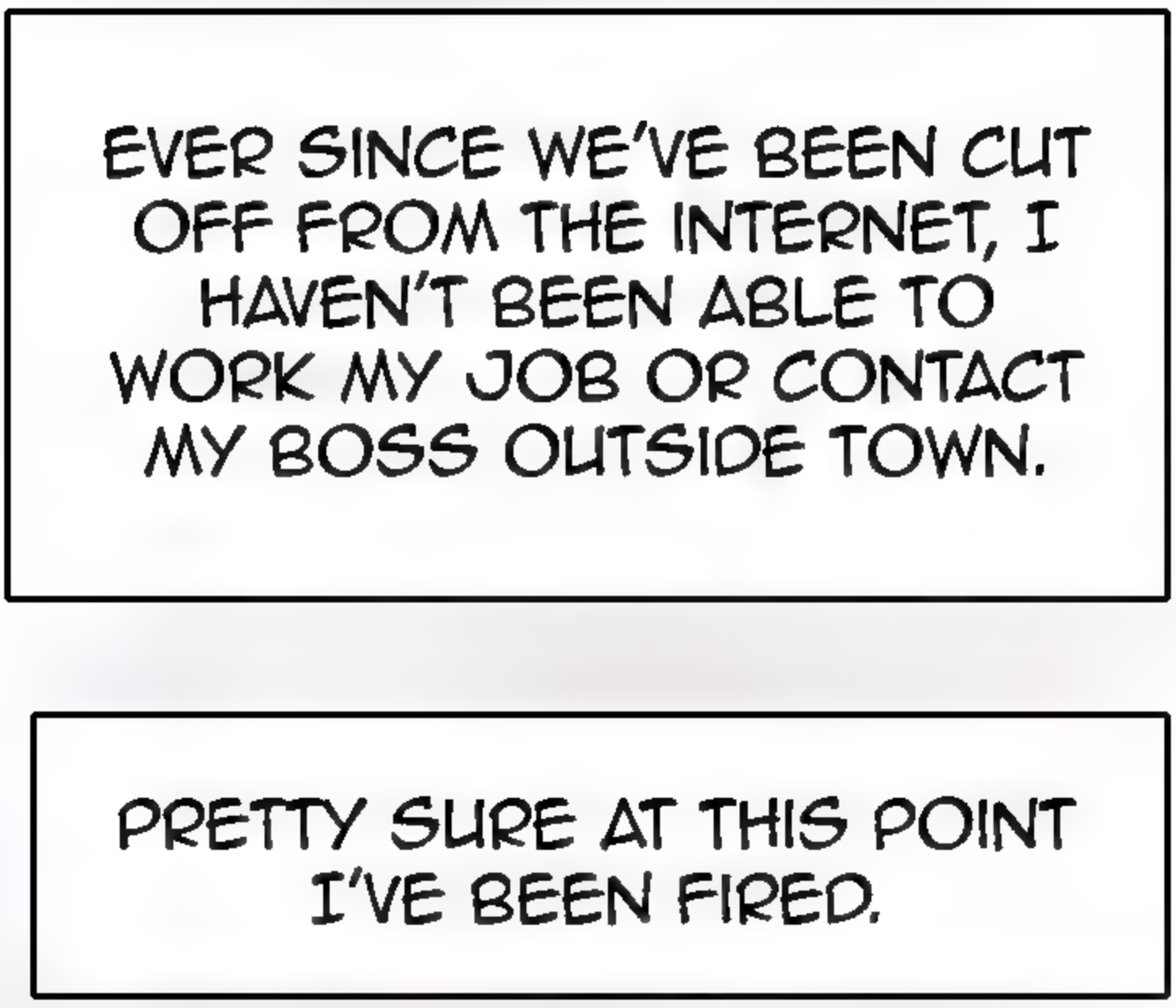
# LONG HAUL

part two

SIGH...



lettuce
rion
broth
bag)
Carrots

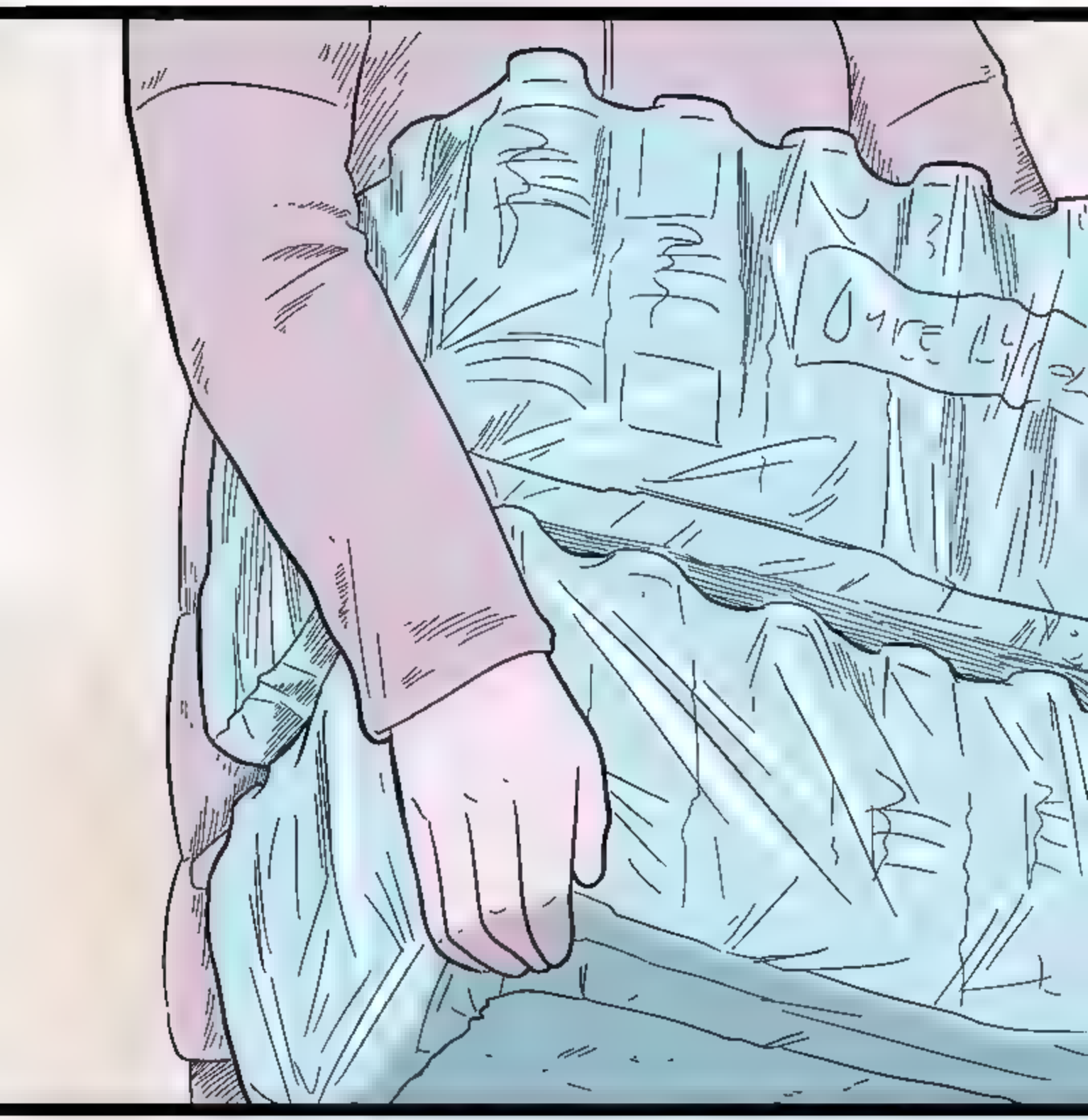

EVER SINCE WE'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE INTERNET, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO WORK MY JOB OR CONTACT MY BOSS OUTSIDE TOWN.
PRETTY SURE AT THIS POINT I'VE BEEN FIRED.

MONEY IS GETTING HARDER TO COME BY. WE NEED TO SAVE FOR RENT. FELIX LEFT HIS PLACE, BUT IT'LL BE ANOTHER MONTH BEFORE HE GETS THE DEPOSIT BACK.

THE SINKHOLE BY HIS OLD PLACE IS NOW BEING CALLED "ROADWORK" BY EVERYONE.

NO MENTION OF ANY EVACUATION. JUST... TYPICAL ROADWORK. TO FIX A WATER MAIN OR SOMETHING.

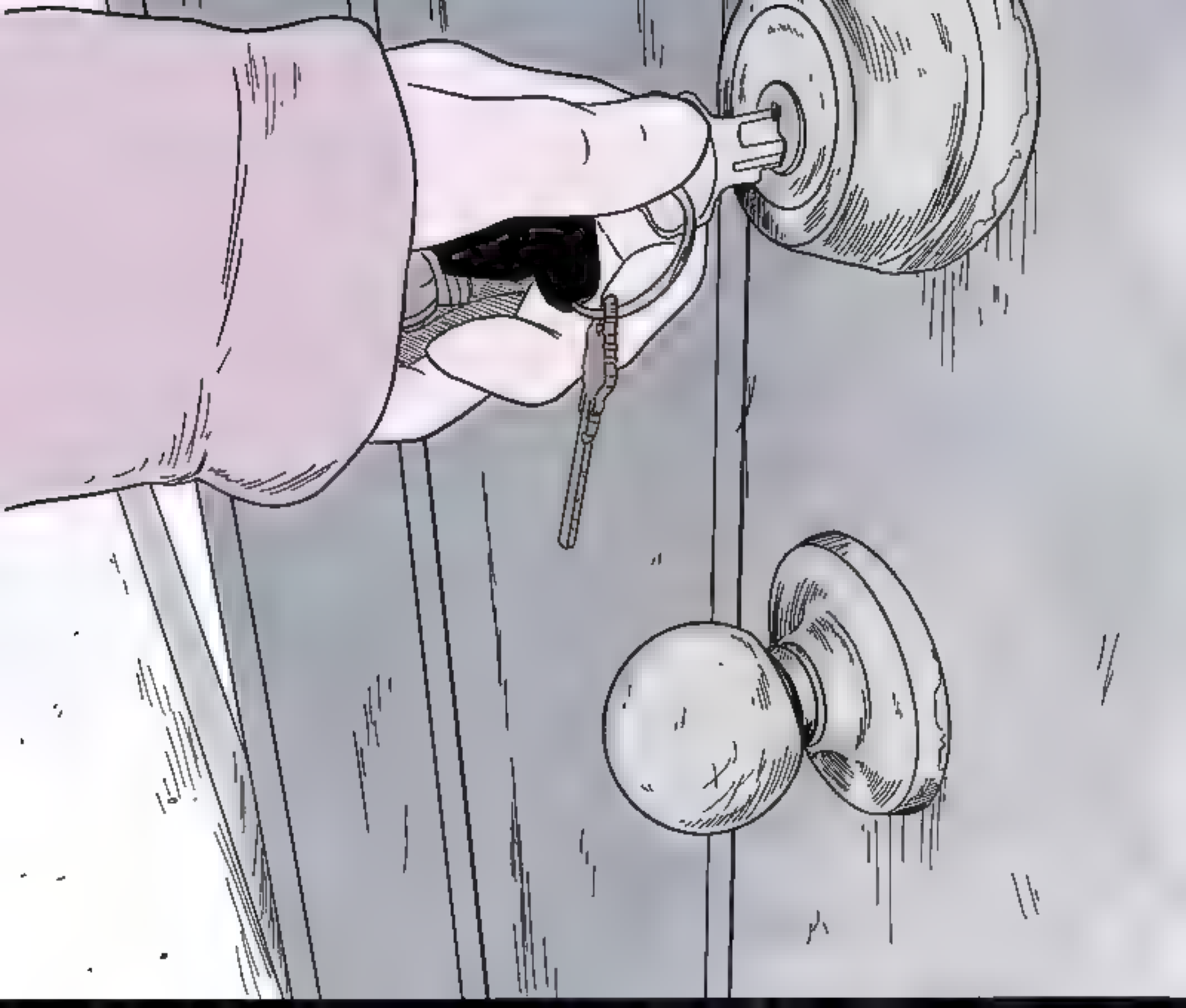
LIKE IT ALL NEVER HAPPENED.



IT'S SAFER FOR US TO STICK TOGETHER. WE CAN'T EVEN TRUST THE TAP WATER ANYMORE.

SO WE BUY IMPORTED BOTTLED WATER FOR EVERYTHING, EVEN WASHING OUR FACES. JUST IN CASE.

IT'S...NOT CHEAP..



CLICK
I'M HOME!

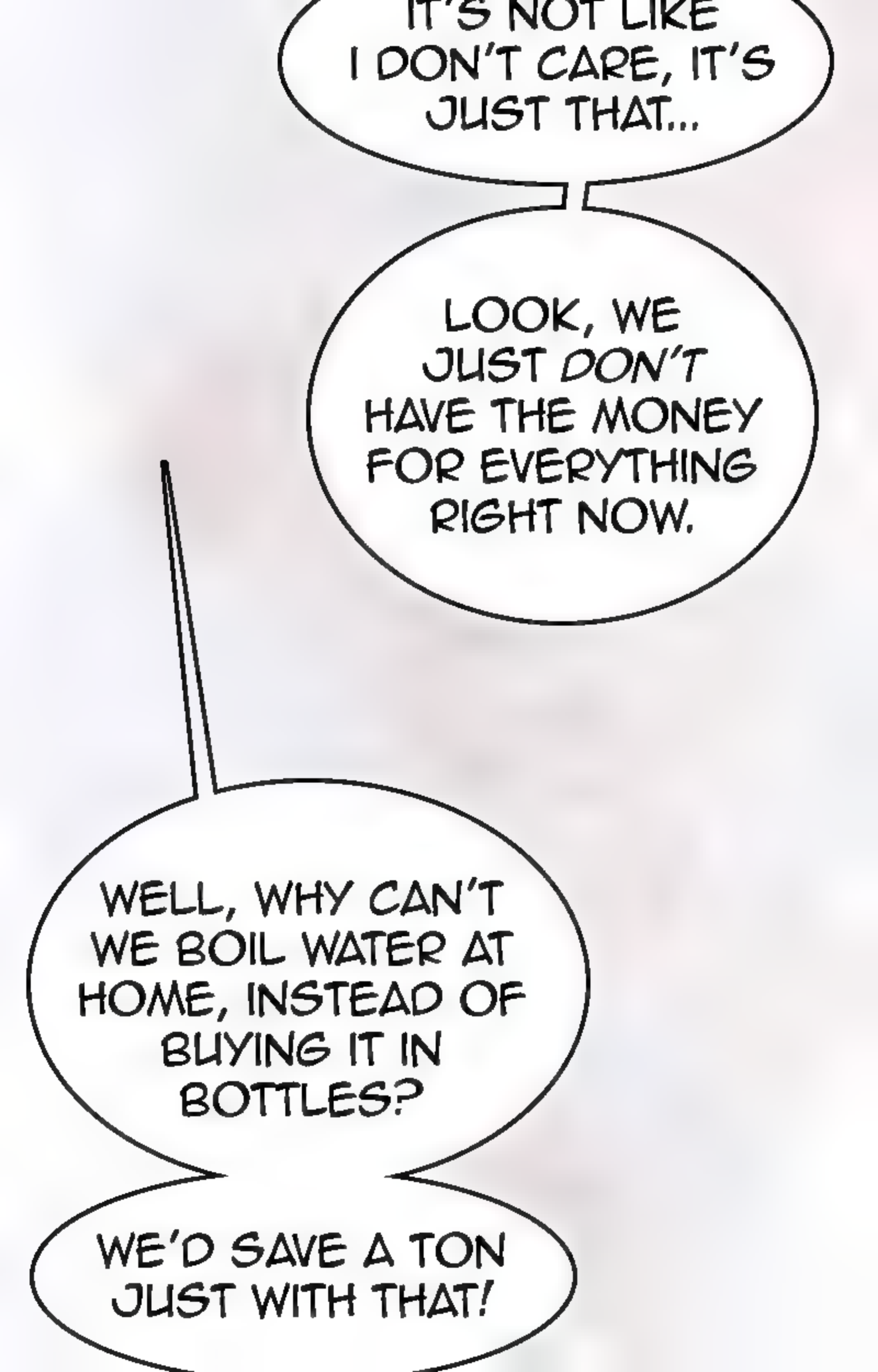
HEY FRAN, WELCOME HOME. GET EVERYTHING OKAY?
MMM, NO, I

HAD TO LEAVE A FEW THINGS FOR NEXT TIME. PAPER TOWELS, SOME OF THE MEAT YOU LISTED...

WAIT, WHAT? YOU CAN'T LEAVE THAT OUT, IT'S FOR J! HE NEEDS PROTEIN TO RECOVER!

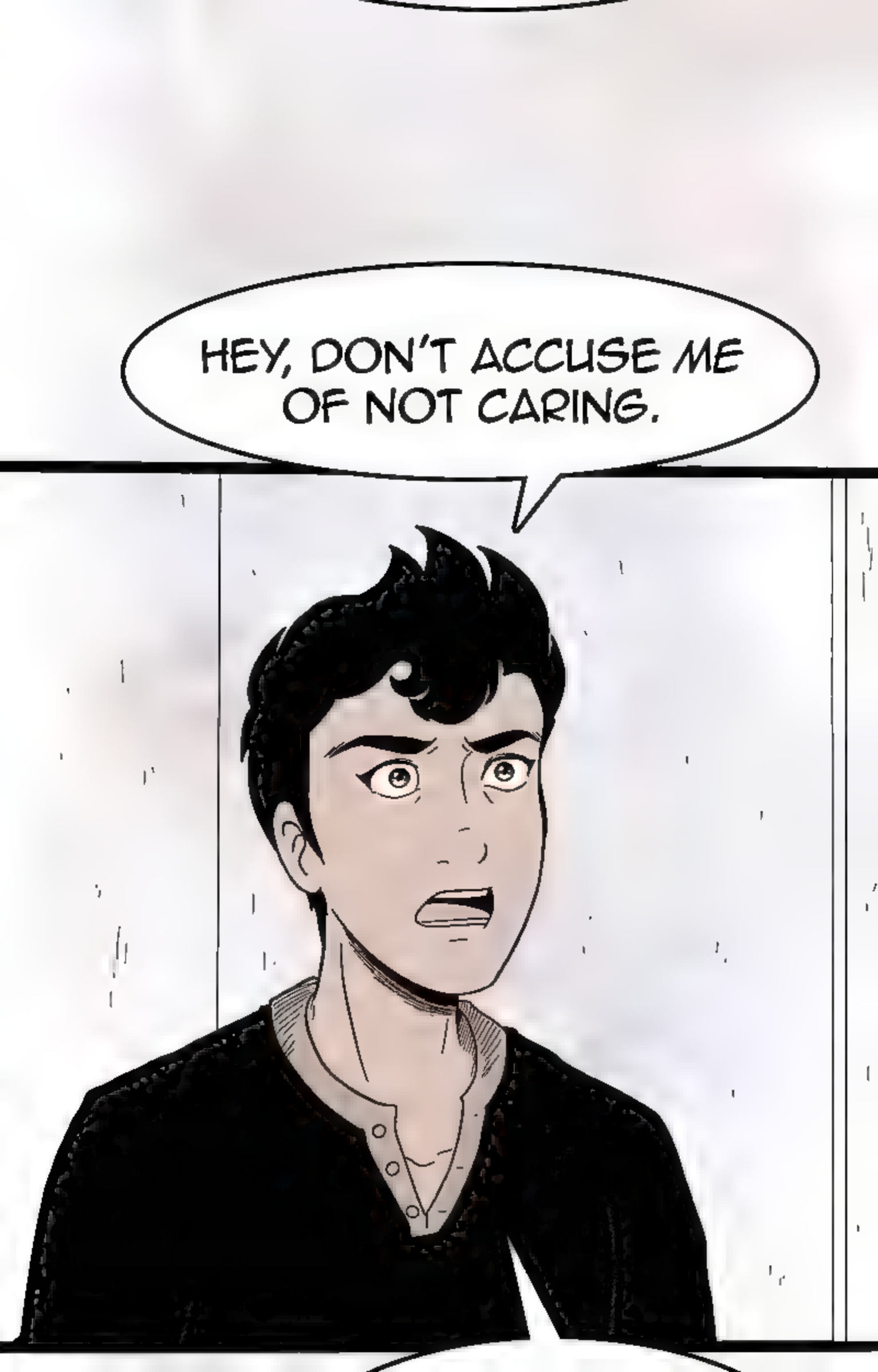
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED. MEAT IS REALLY EXPENSIVE THESE DAYS. I GOT WHAT I COULD.

THAT'S NOT THE POINT...JEREMY NEEDS TO GET BETTER.
I KNOW THAT.


IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T CARE, IT'S JUST THAT...
LOOK, WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE MONEY FOR EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW.
WELL, WHY CAN'T WE BOIL WATER AT HOME, INSTEAD OF BUYING IT IN BOTTLES?
WE'D SAVE A TON JUST WITH THAT!

HOW CAN WE KNOW THAT BOILING THE WATER WILL MAKE IT ***SAFE***, FELIX?

YOU WANT US TO MESS AROUND WITH THAT BLACK STUFF AND MAKE JEREMY SICK?

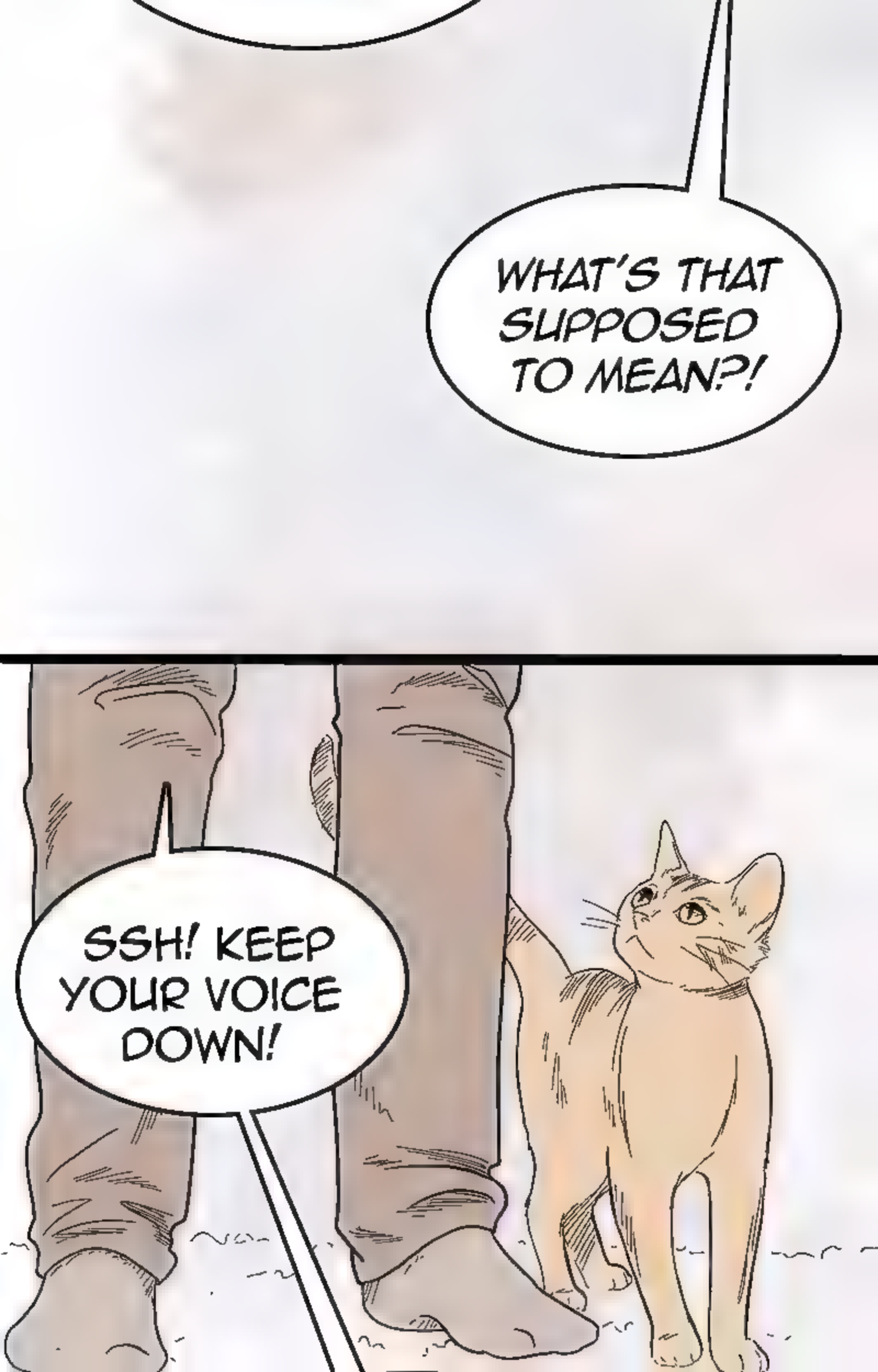

HEY, DON'T ACCUSE ME OF NOT CARING.

I'VE BEEN DOING *EVERYTHING* FOR J AROUND HERE!

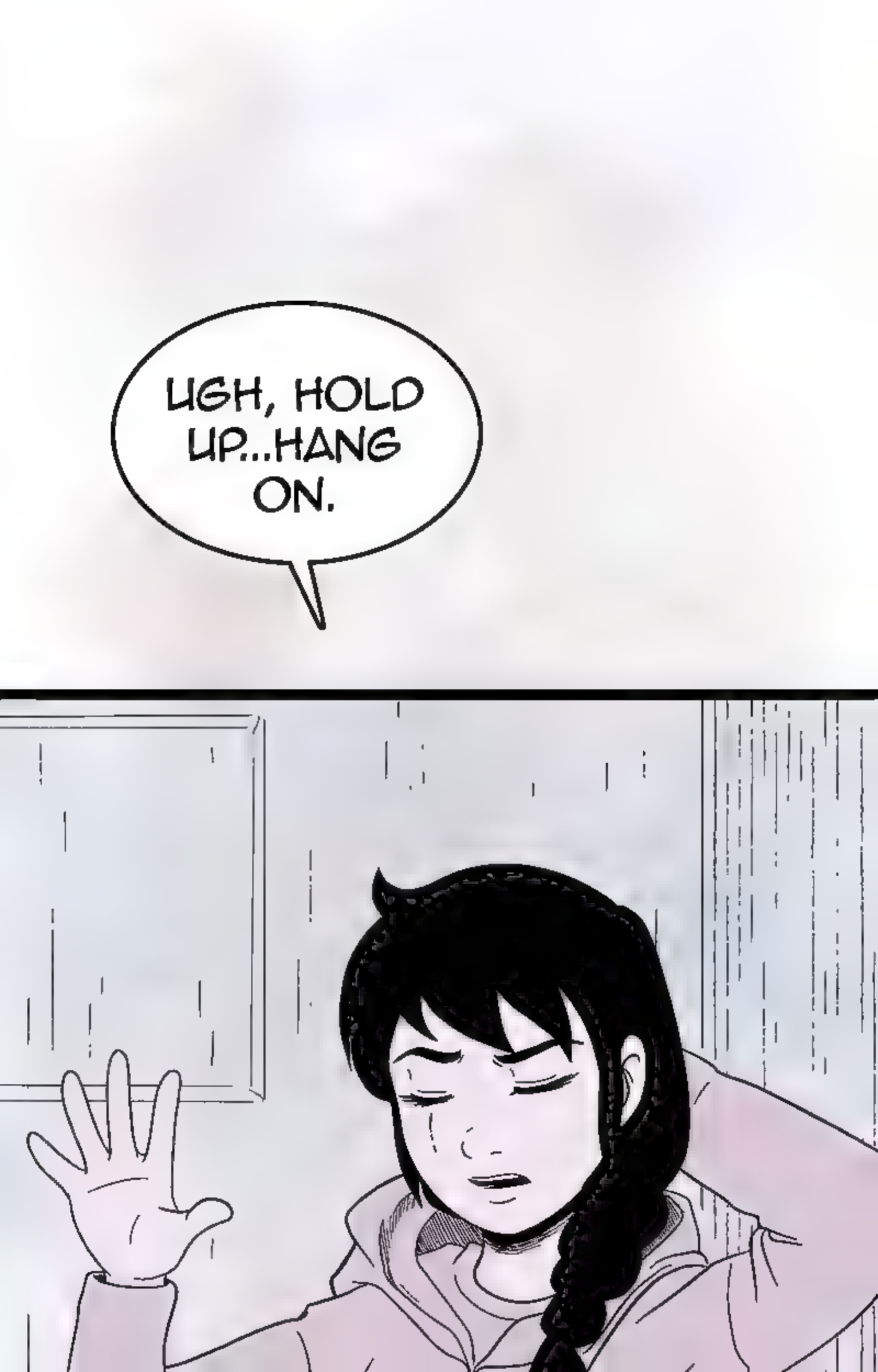
I DO PLENTY OF WORK TOO, YOU KNOW!

AND *MAYBE* IF YOU DIDN'T INSIST ON DOING EVERYTHING YOURSELF, I COULD ACTUALLY HELP OUT MORE!

WELL I'M JUST BETTER AT DOING THE COOKING AND TAKING CARE OF J, SO I *HAVE* TO DO IT!

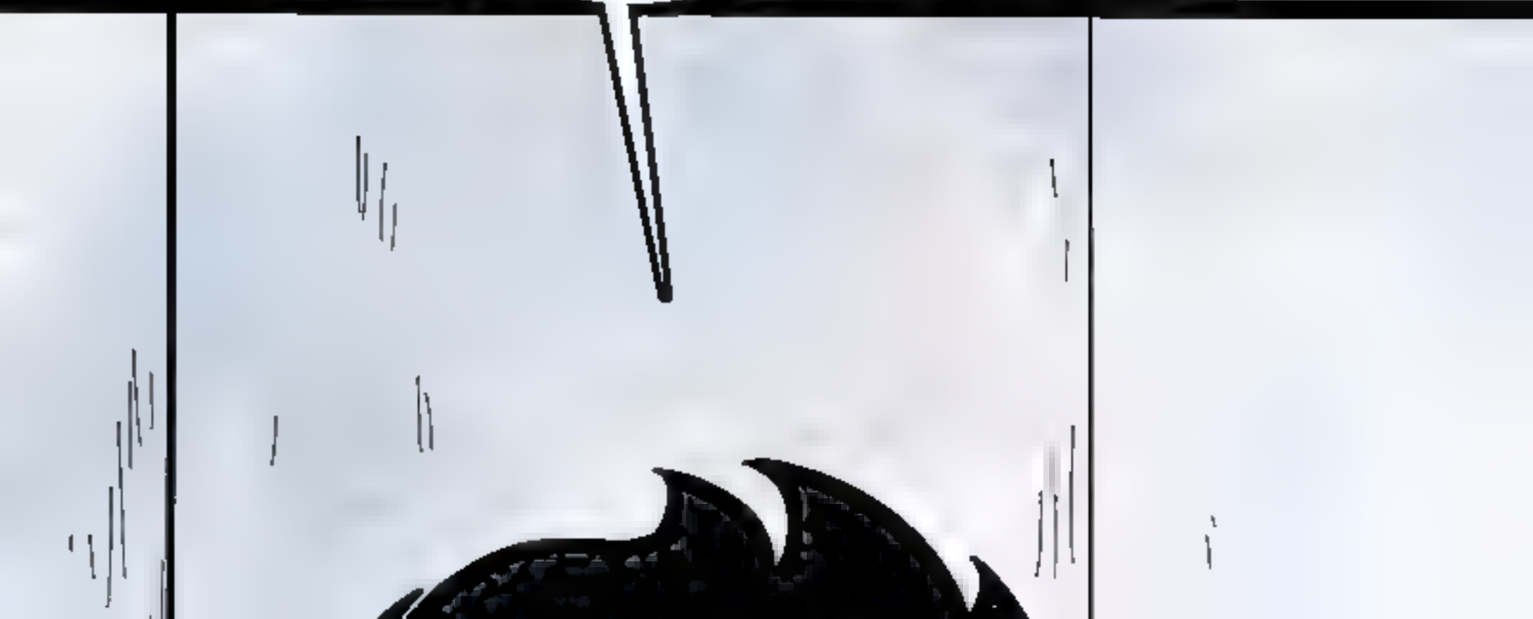

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
SSH! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

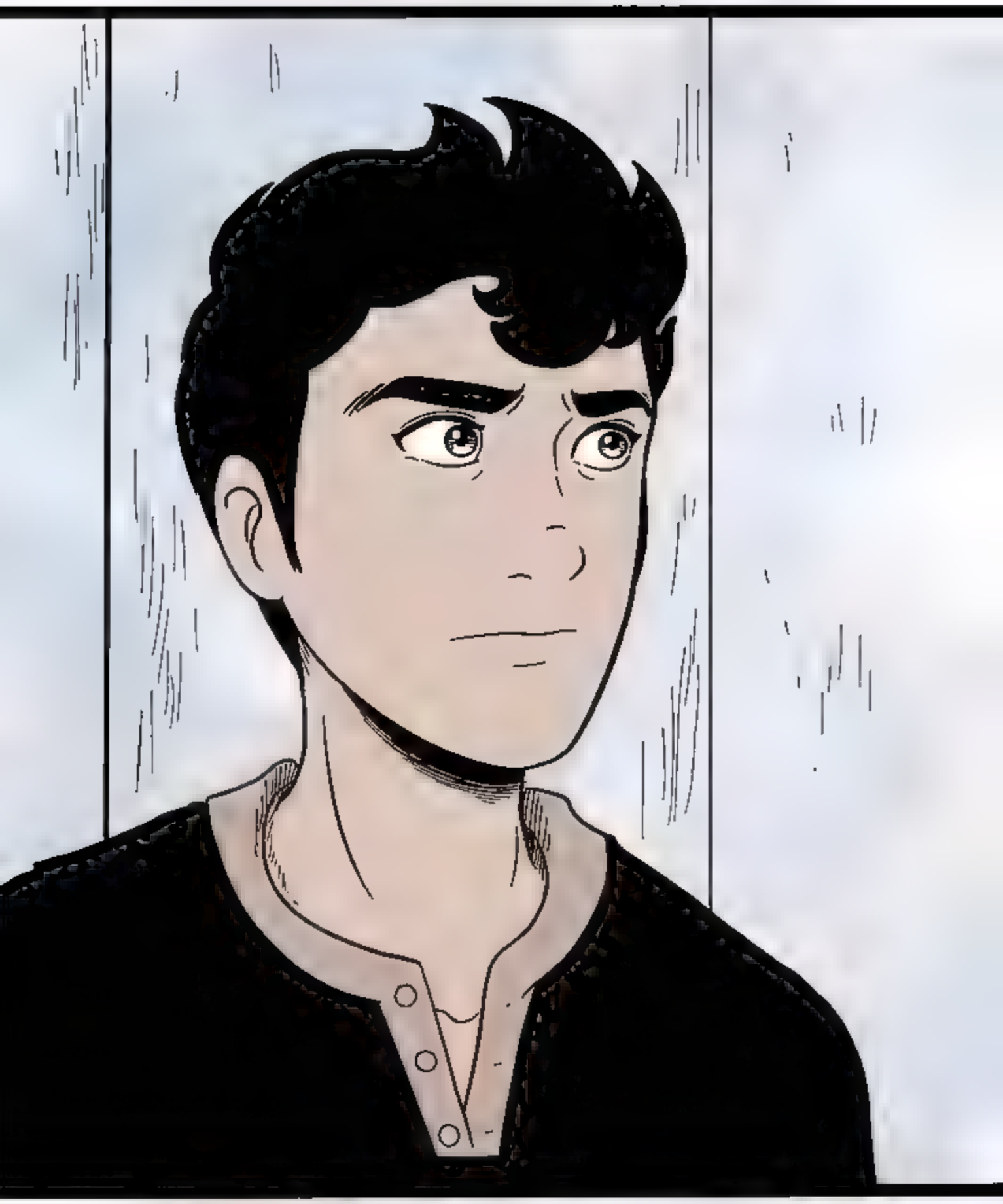
YOU WANT TO WAKE HIM UP?

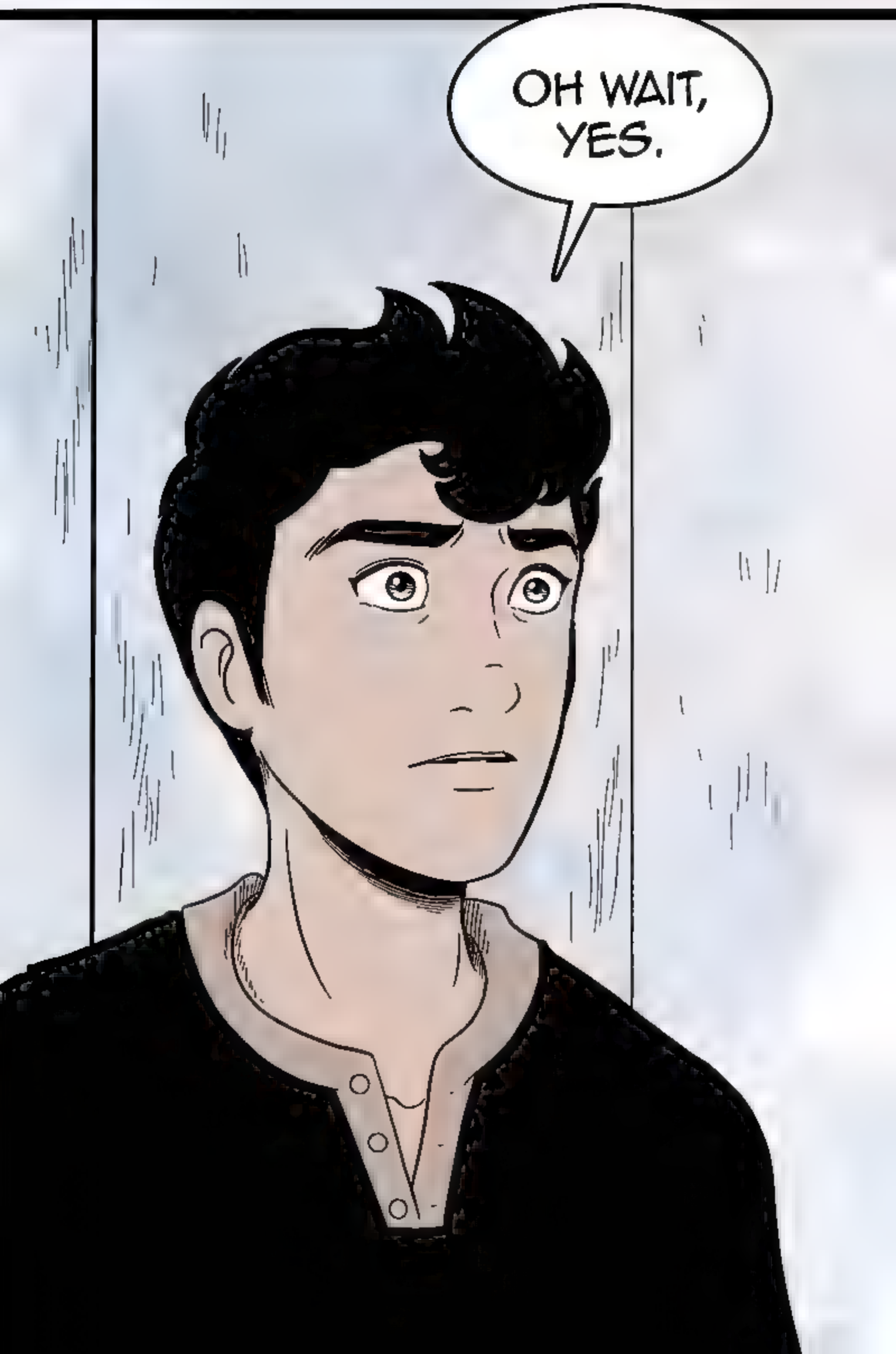

UGH, HOLD UP...HANG ON.

ARE WE REALLY HAVING AN ARGUMENT OVER JEREMY?

NO!






OH WAIT, YES.

SIGH...
I'M SORRY.

THIS ISN'T EVEN ABOUT HIM, IS IT?

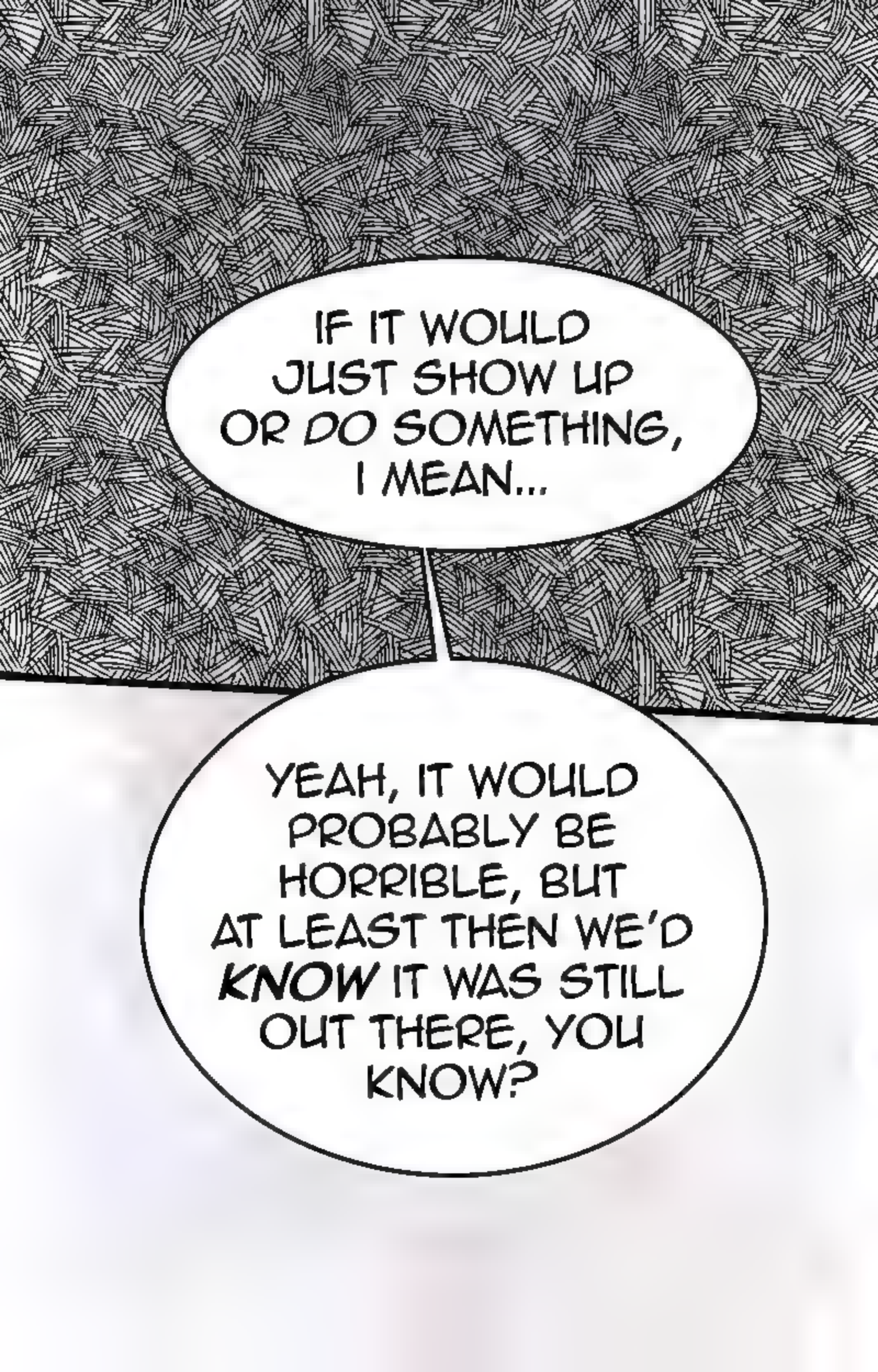
IT'S JUST... *STRESS.*

YEAH...

SORRY, I'M JUST REALLY ON EDGE.
I KEEP WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO...I DON'T KNOW, HAPPEN.
I GUESS IT WAS TOO MUCH TO HOPE THAT THE MINE FIRE KILLED THAT

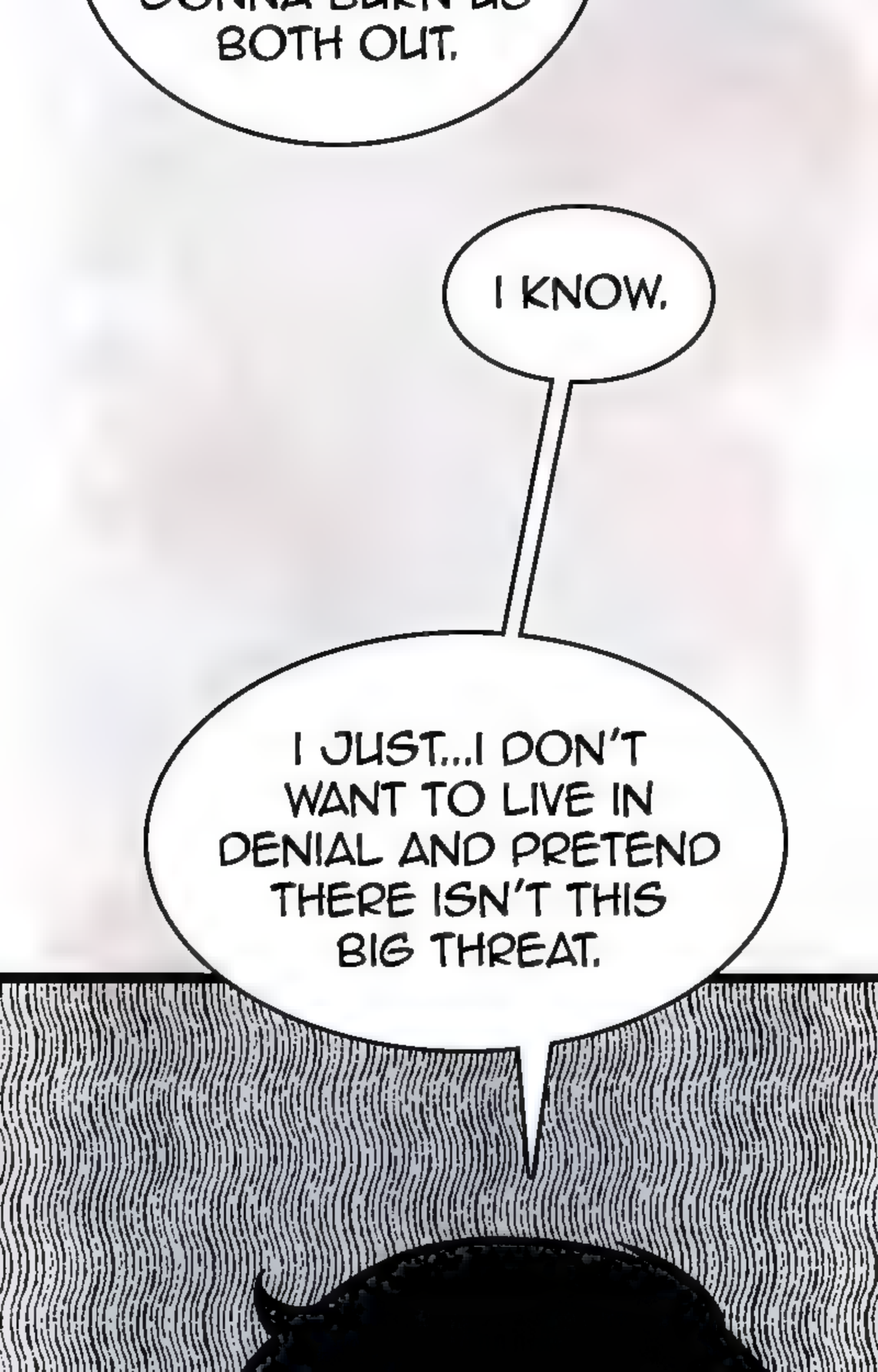
IT'S STILL OUT THERE, AND IT'S PROBABLY *REALLY* MAD AT US.

JUST SITTING AROUND WAITING WHILE SLOWLY RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS IS DOING TERRIBLE THINGS TO ME.


IF IT WOULD JUST SHOW UP OR *DO* SOMETHING, I MEAN...
YEAH, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE HORRIBLE, BUT AT LEAST THEN WE'D ***KNOW*** IT WAS STILL OUT THERE, YOU KNOW?

I JUST CAN'T
TAKE THE *WAITING*.

BUT WE...
WE HAVE TO TRY AND LIVE NORMALLY, OR THE STRESS IS


BOTH OUT.
I KNOW.
I JUST...I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN DENIAL AND PRETEND THERE ISN'T THIS BIG THREAT.

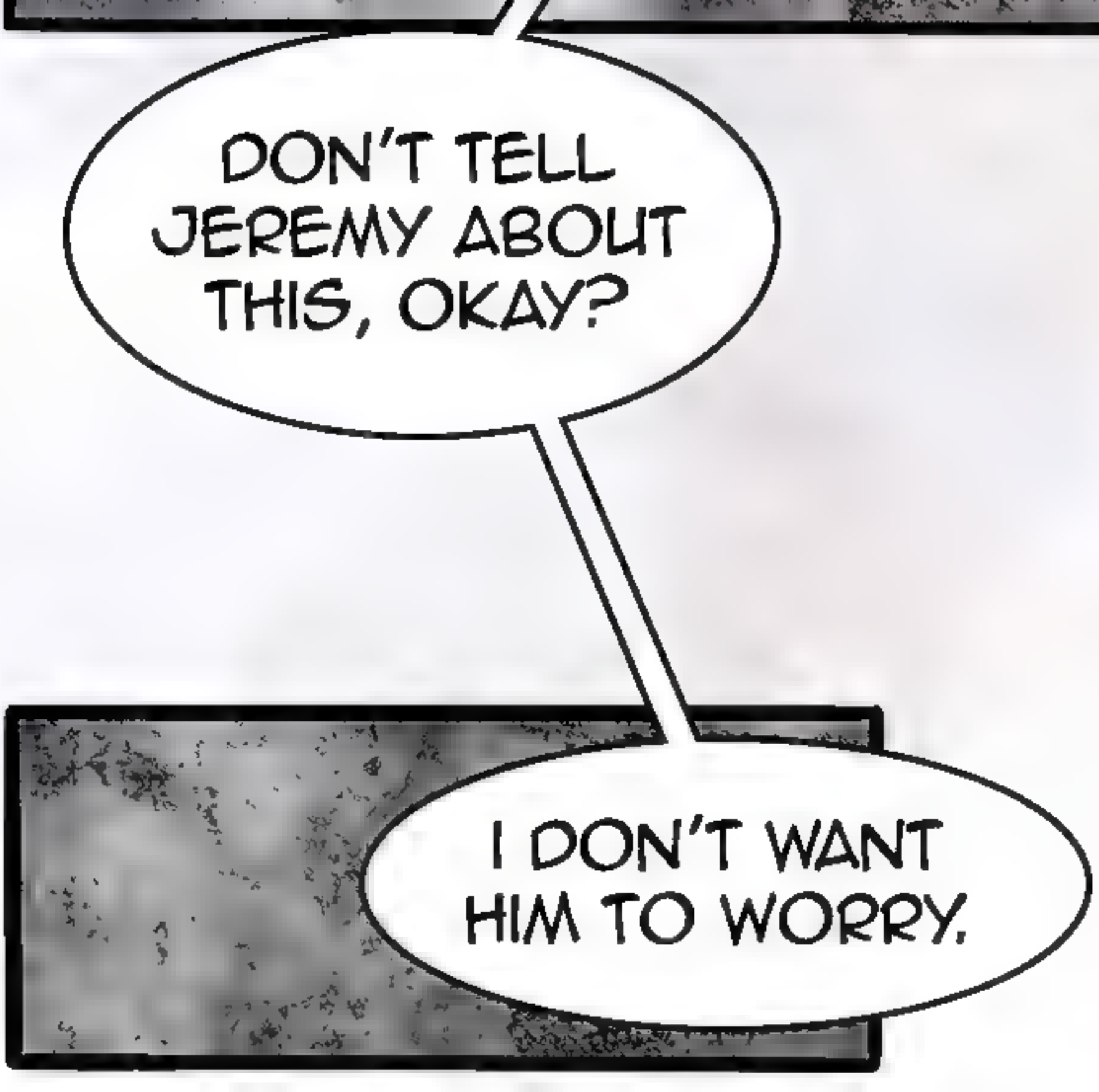
EVEN IF THAT *WHATEVER IT IS* DOES NOTHING, WE STILL HAVE BIG PROBLEMS.

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF MONEY.

EVEN WITH

EVEN WITH YOUR DEPOSIT COMING IN, WE *MAYBE* HAVE ENOUGH FOR ANOTHER TWO MONTHS OF RENT.

AND THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE TO MOVE THAT WE CAN TRUST.

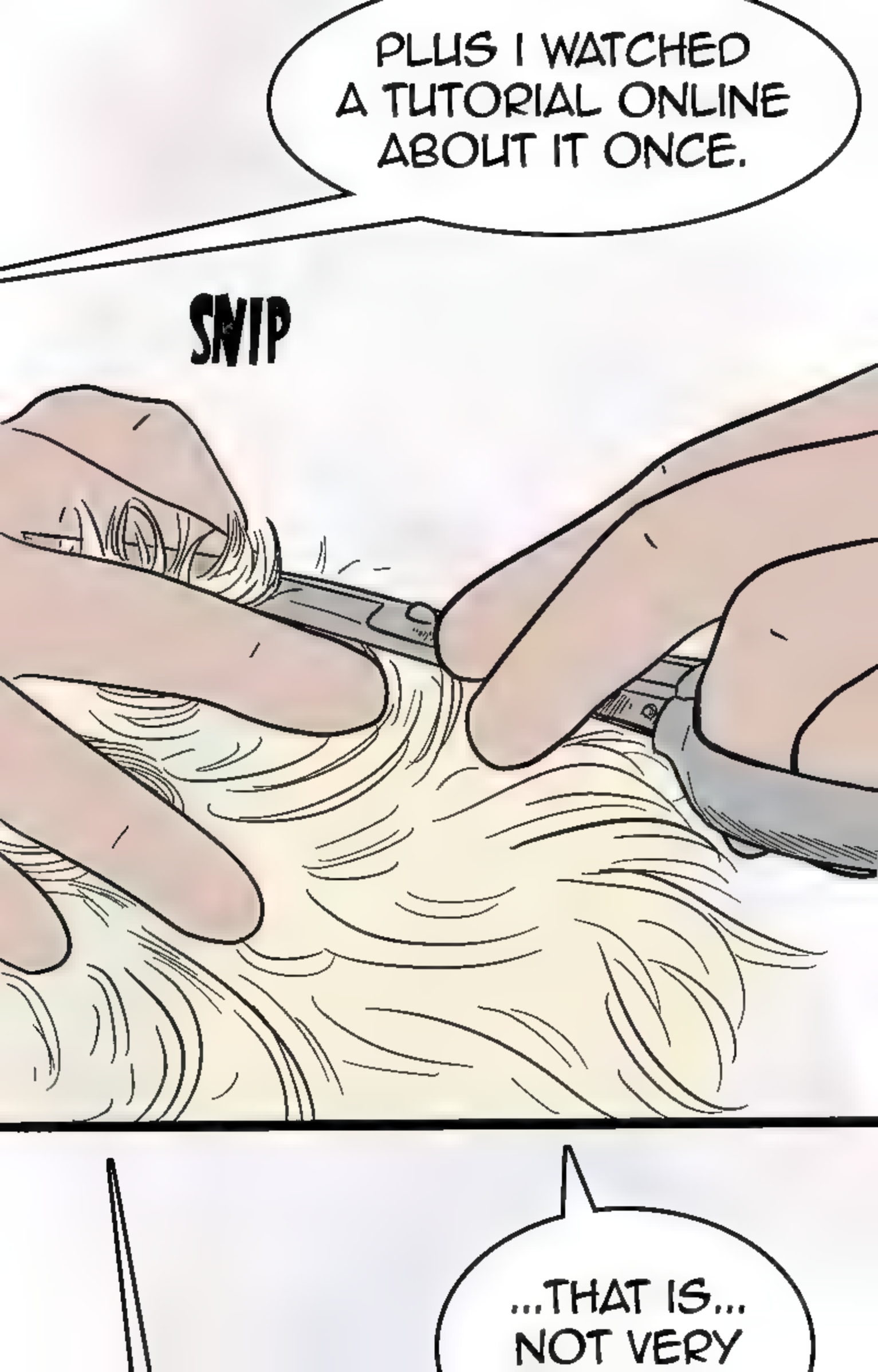

DON'T TELL JEREMY ABOUT THIS, OKAY?
I DON'T WANT HIM TO WORRY.

SNIP

YOU...KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING...RIGHT?

SNIP

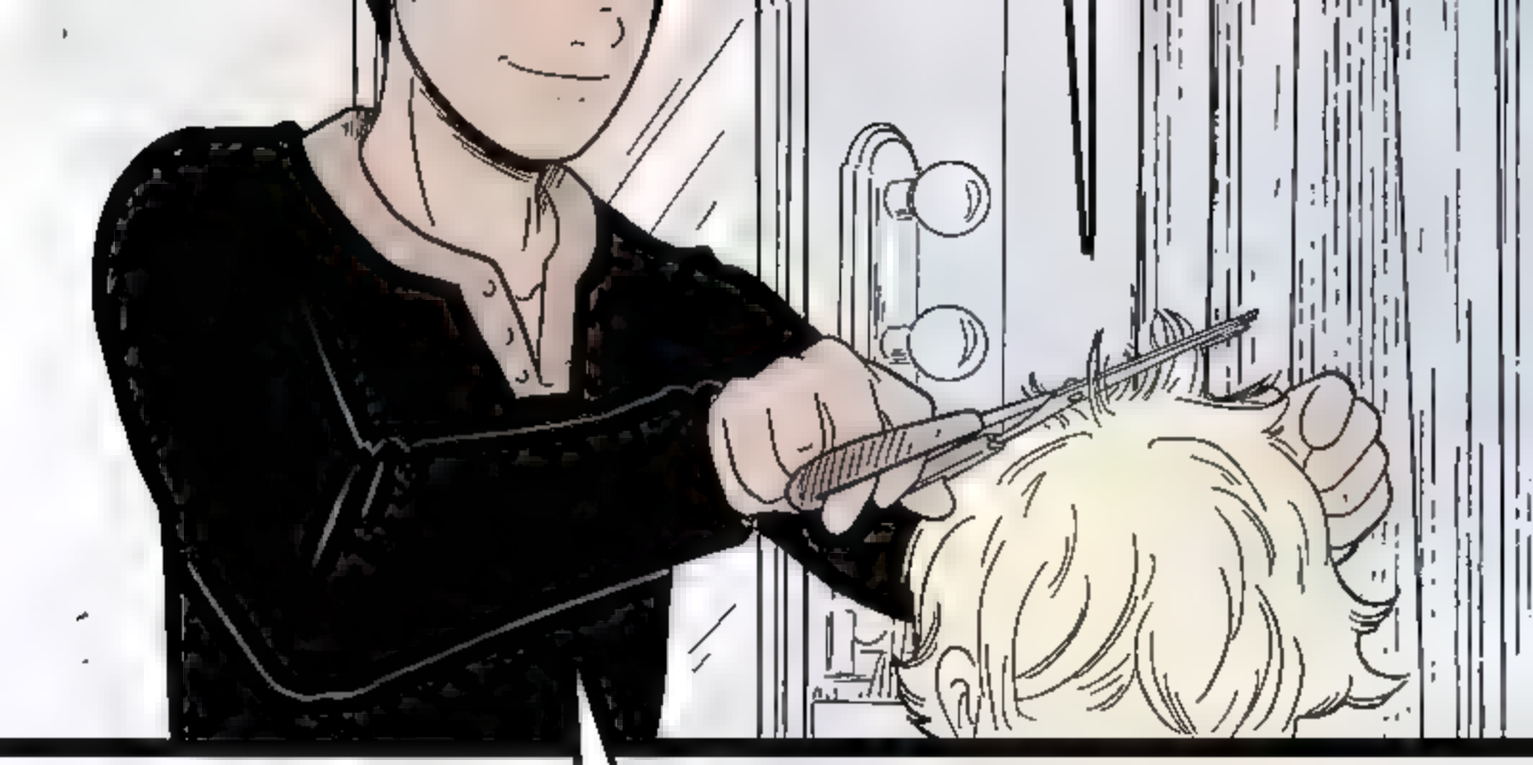
J, I'M AN *ARTIST.* I TOTALLY KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.


PLUS I WATCHED A TUTORIAL ONLINE ABOUT IT ONCE.
SNIP
...THAT IS... NOT VERY

INSPIRING.

AHH, COME ON. CUTTING YOUR HAIR WILL HIDE THE THINNING UNTIL IT GROWS BACK.

I-IT *IS* GOING...TO GROW BACK... RIGHT?

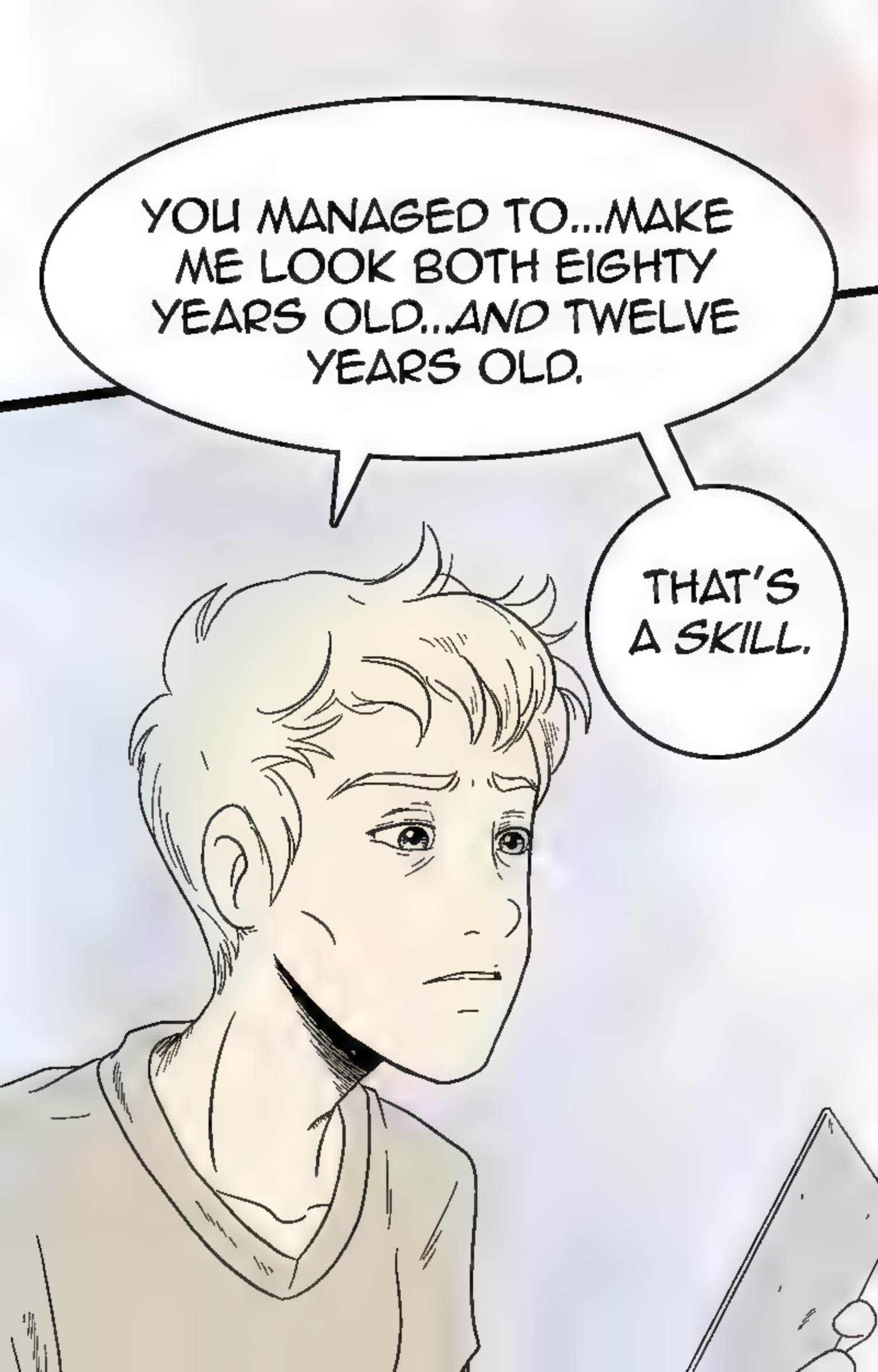


SEEN IT BEFORE, MAN. PEOPLE SHED HAIR AFTER GOING THROUGH TRAUMATIC THINGS.

IT'LL GROW BACK FINE, JUST TAKES TIME.

IN THE MEANTIME, *TA-DAAAH!*

THAT'S...
...AMAZING...


YOU MANAGED TO...MAKE ME LOOK BOTH EIGHTY YEARS OLD..AND TWELVE YEARS OLD.
THAT'S A SKILL.

LIKE I SAID, I'M AN ARTIST. I CONTINUALLY AMAZE.

HEY! FRANOLA

BAR!
IS LUNCH READY YET?

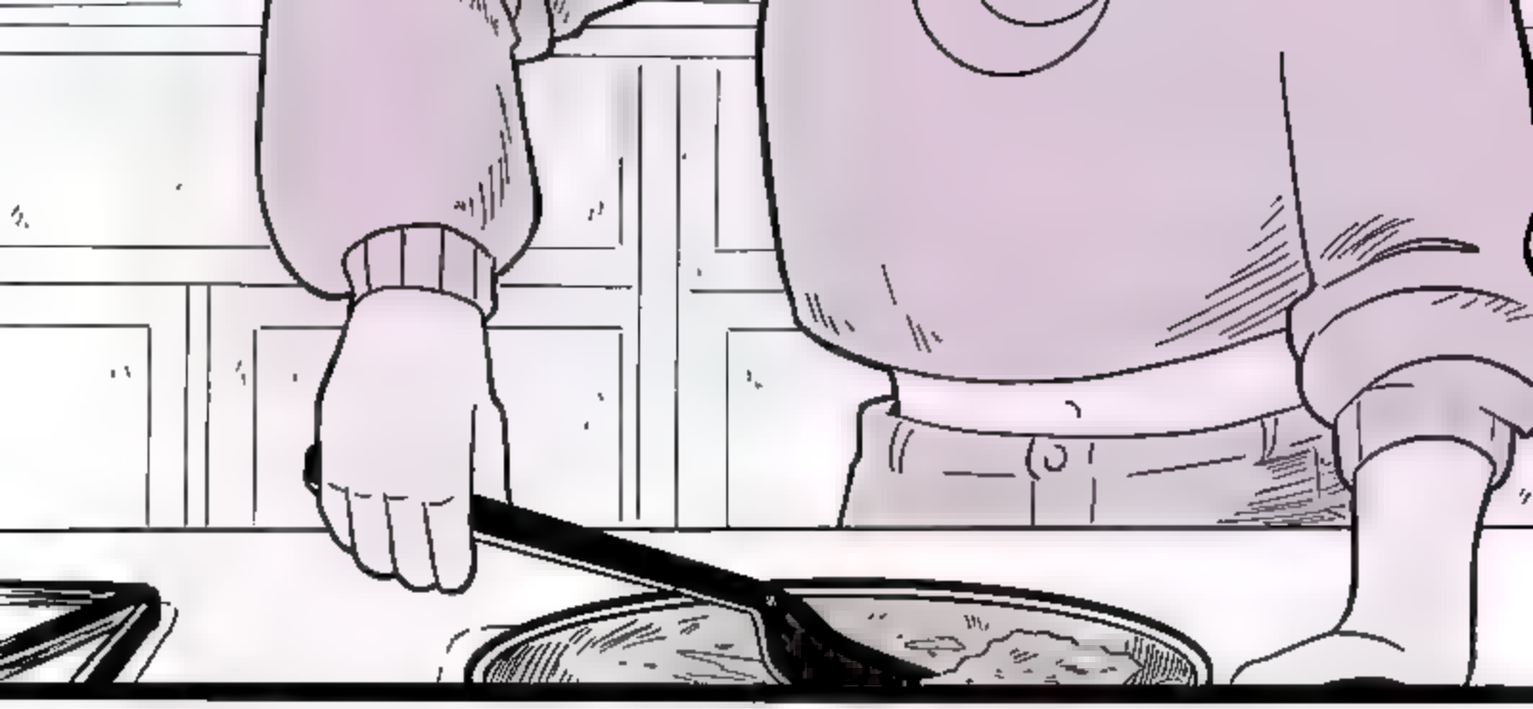
FRANKIE?
YEP, YEP!

IT'S ALMOST
DONE!

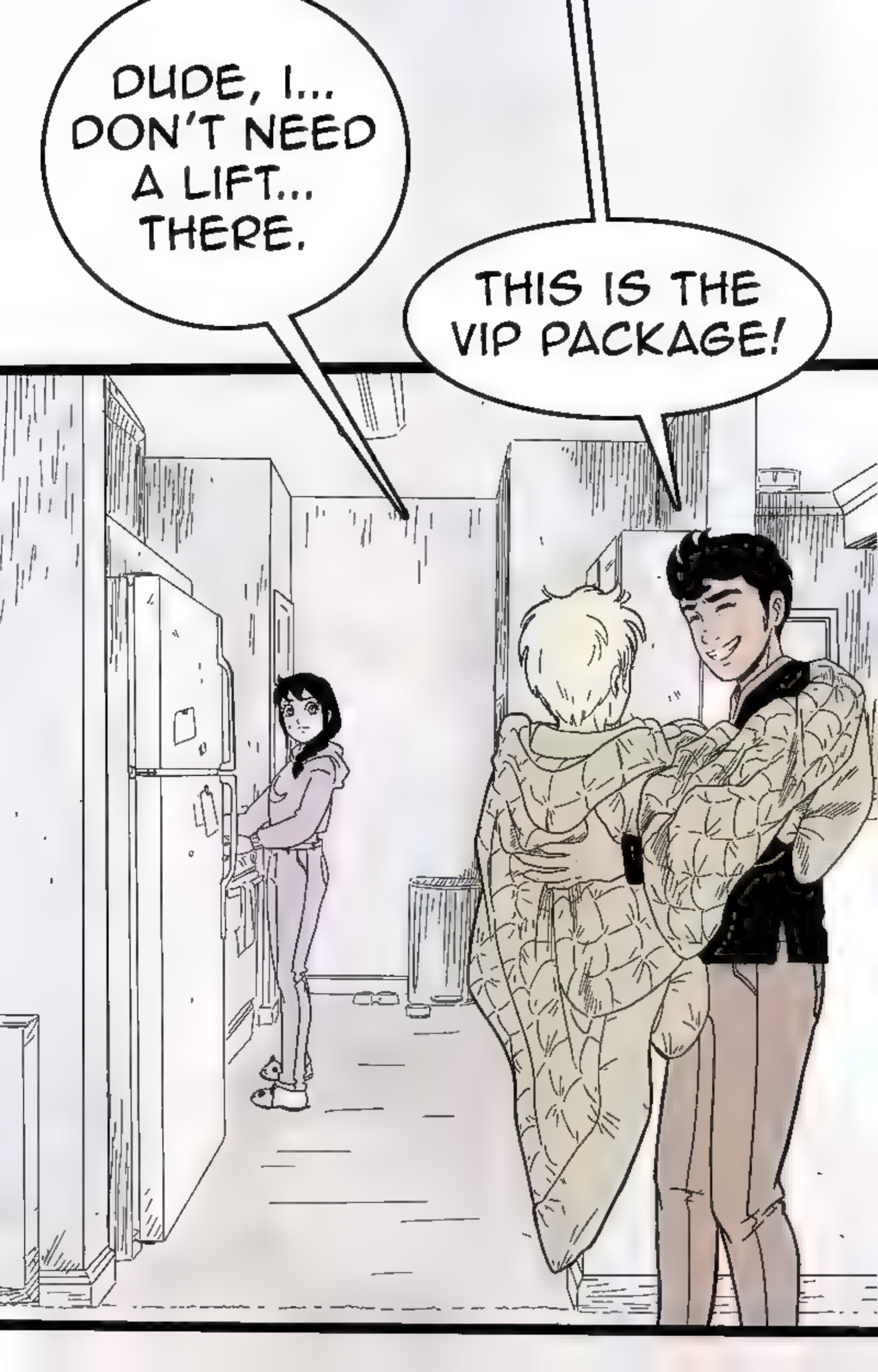
JUST AS SOON AS...

...I GET DONE BURNING IT.

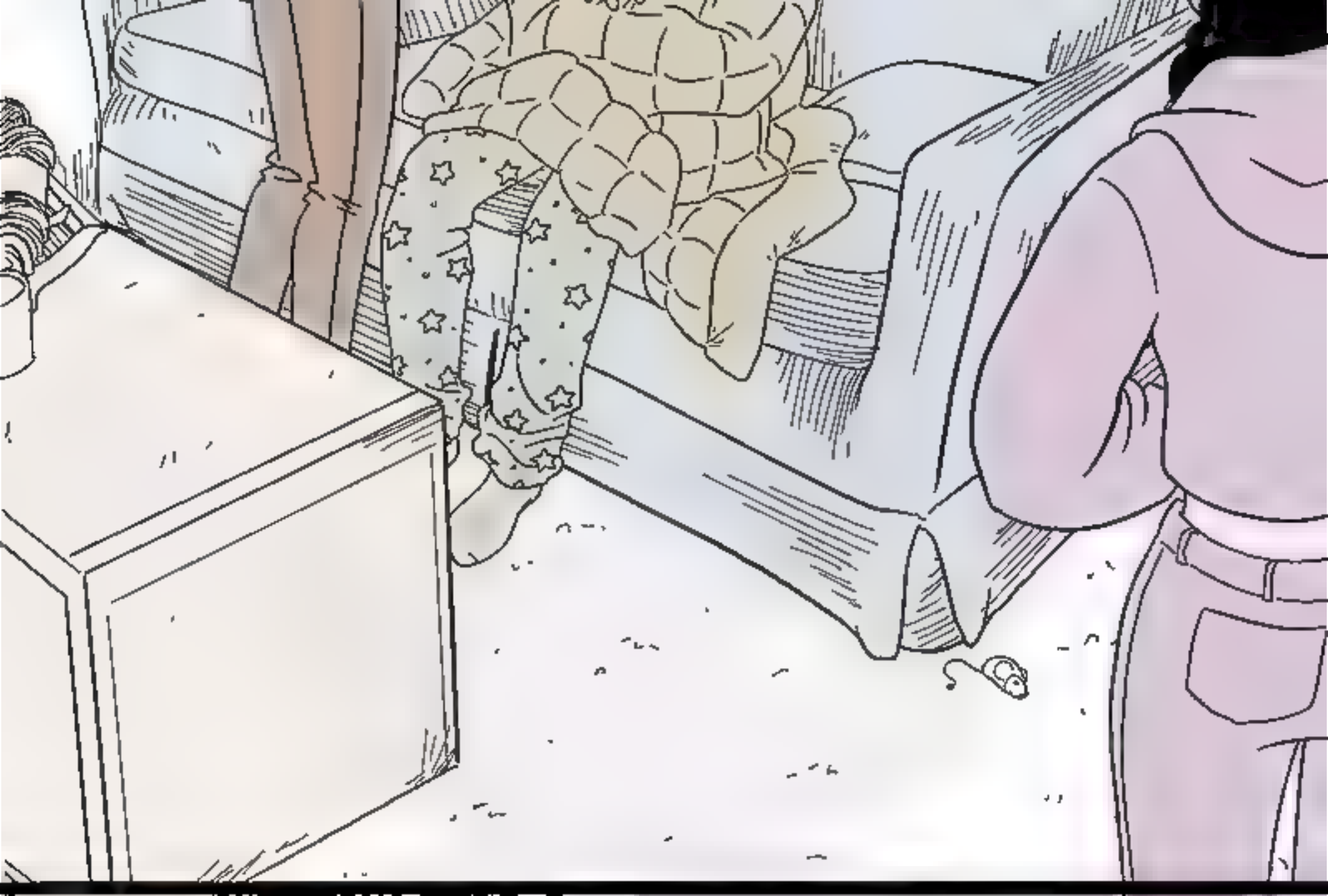
COME ON...



AAAND, WELCOME TO SCENIC *LIVING ROOM!*


DUDE, I... DON'T NEED A LIFT... THERE.
THIS IS THE VIP PACKAGE!

NOW LET'S START A FIRE...
HEY!
JEREMY SHOULDN'T BE OUT OF BED!

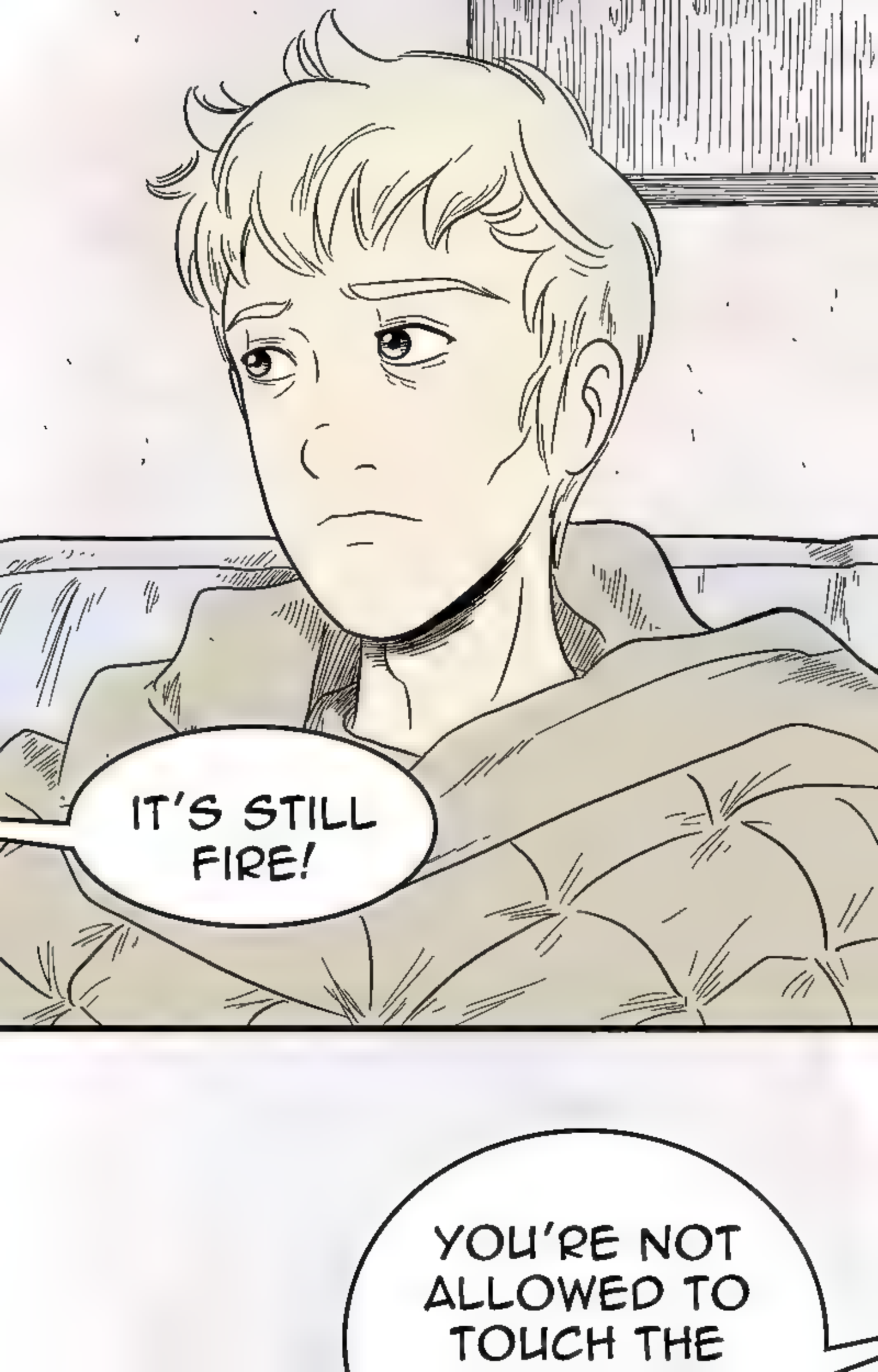


WE'RE GONNA HAVE A FIRE, MAYBE ROAST HOT DOGS OR SOMETHING.
OKAY, TWO THINGS.
JEREMY SHOULD BE IN BED.

AND IF YOU TRY TO ROAST HOT DOGS ON MY *GAS* FIREPLACE I WILL STRAIGHT UP END YOU.

WHAT? IT'S A FIREPLACE, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

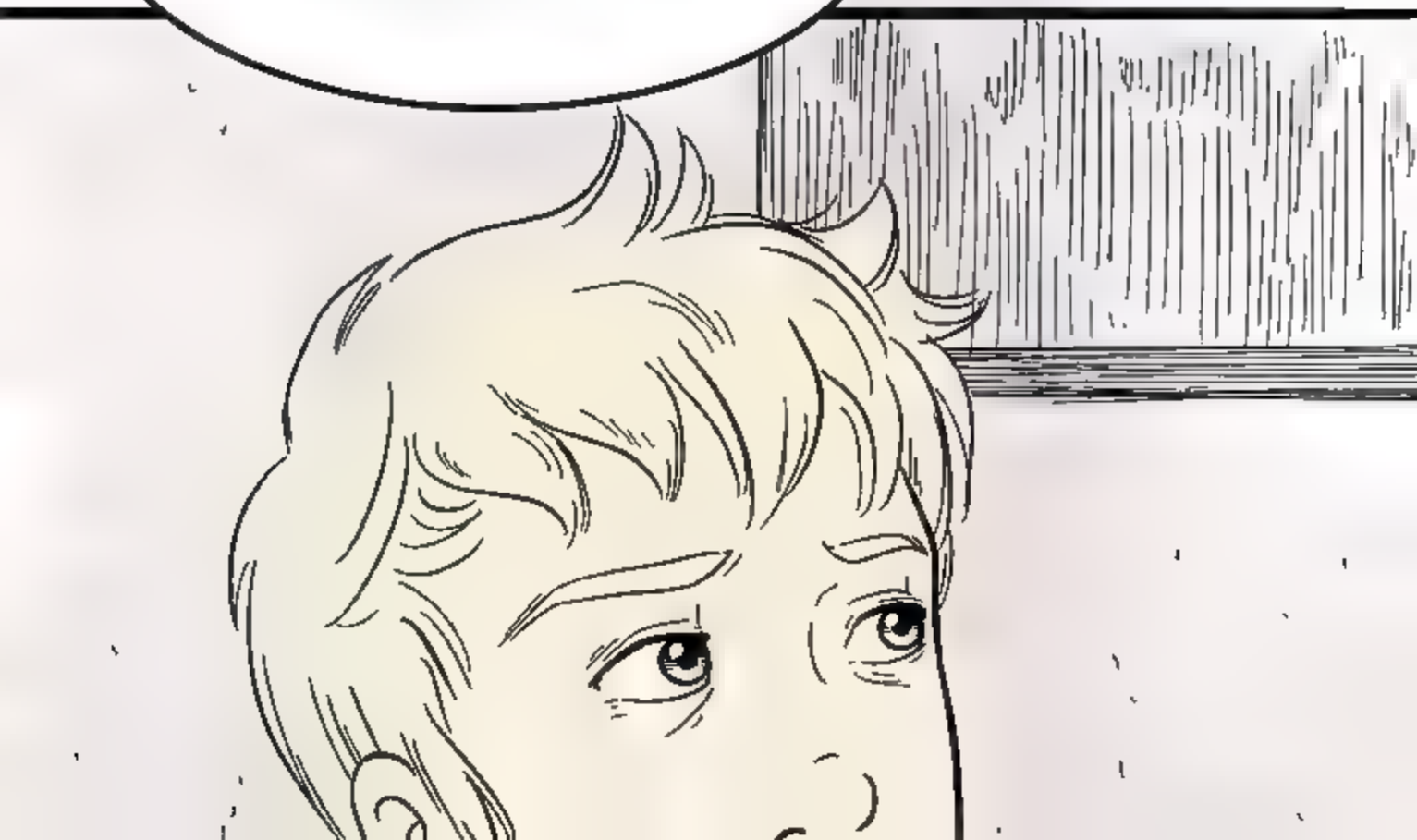
IT'S A *GAS* FIREPLACE!


IT'S STILL FIRE!
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THE

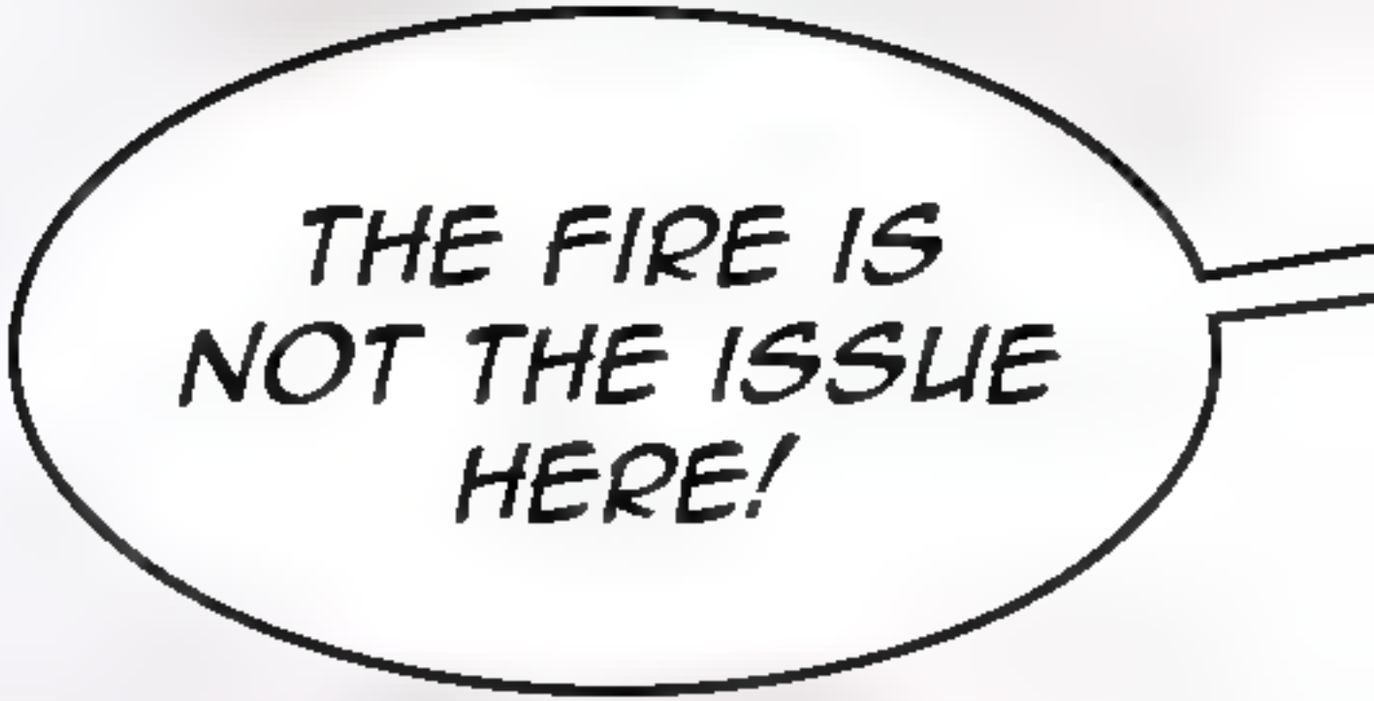
FIREPLACE ANYMORE!

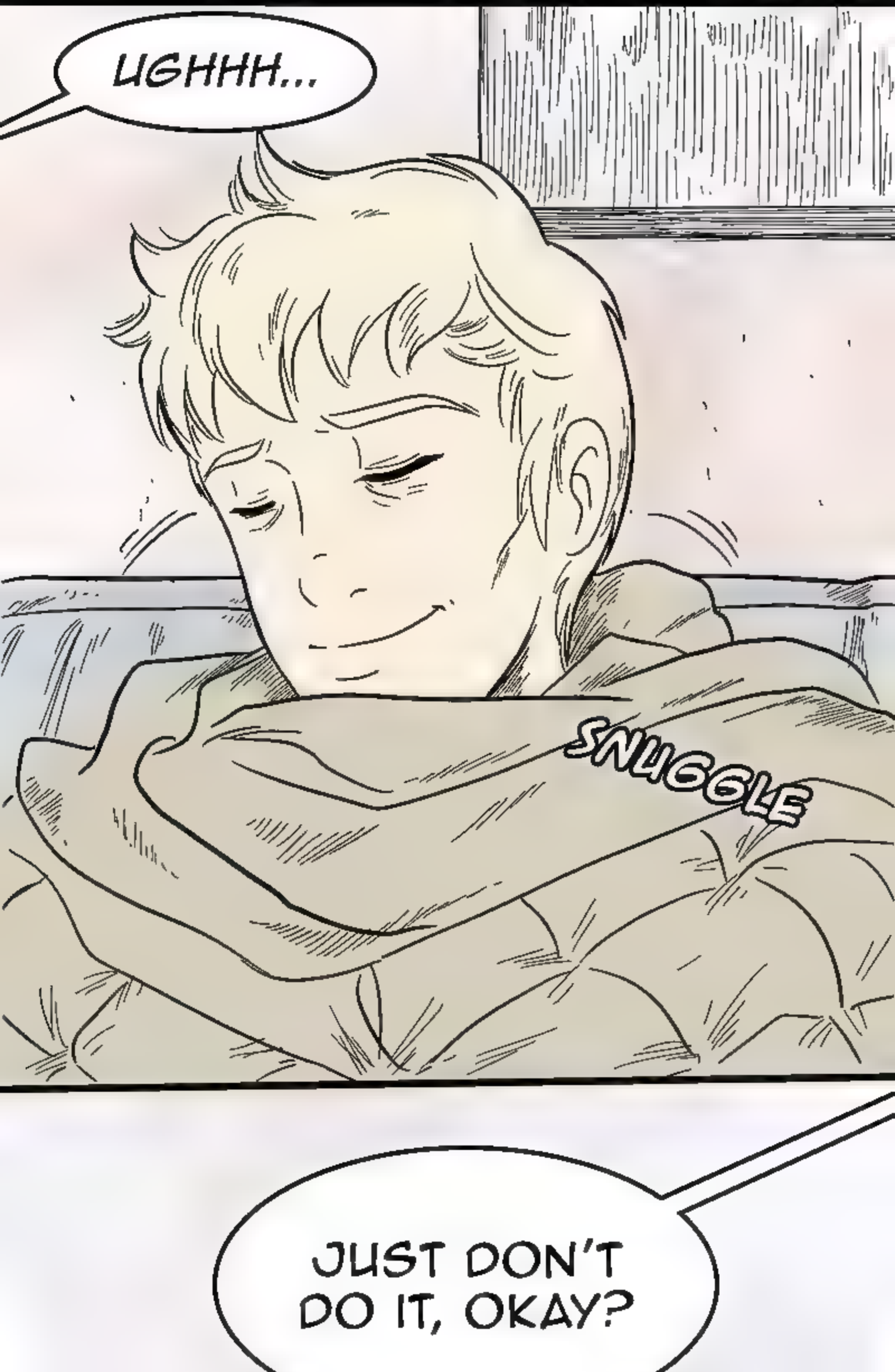
HEY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!

I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS!



IF I FIND OUT YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO COOK ON THAT THING...
IT'S FIRE, FRANKIE. FIRE IS HOT NO MATTER WHAT FIREPLACE YOU HAVE.

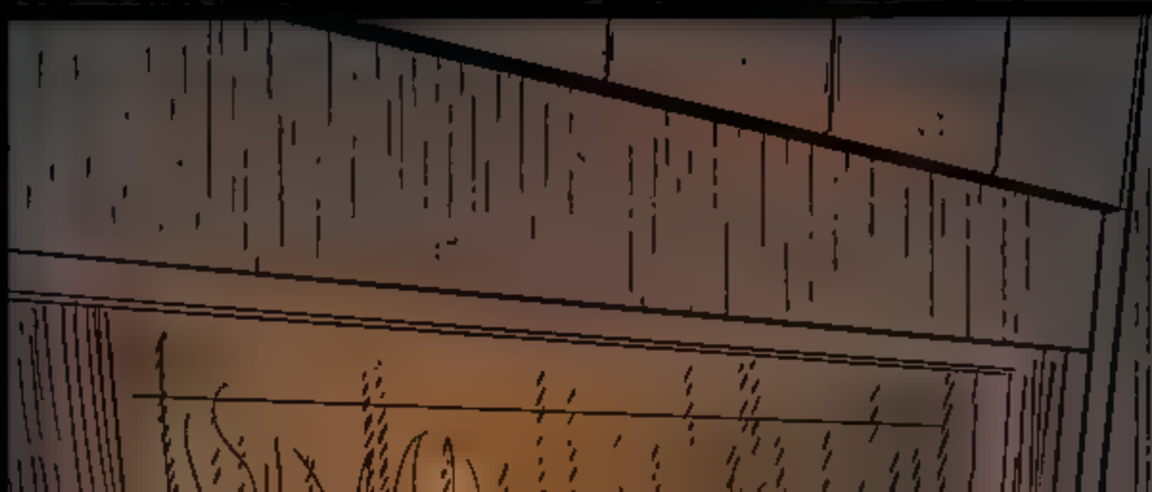

THE FIRE IS NOT THE ISSUE HERE!

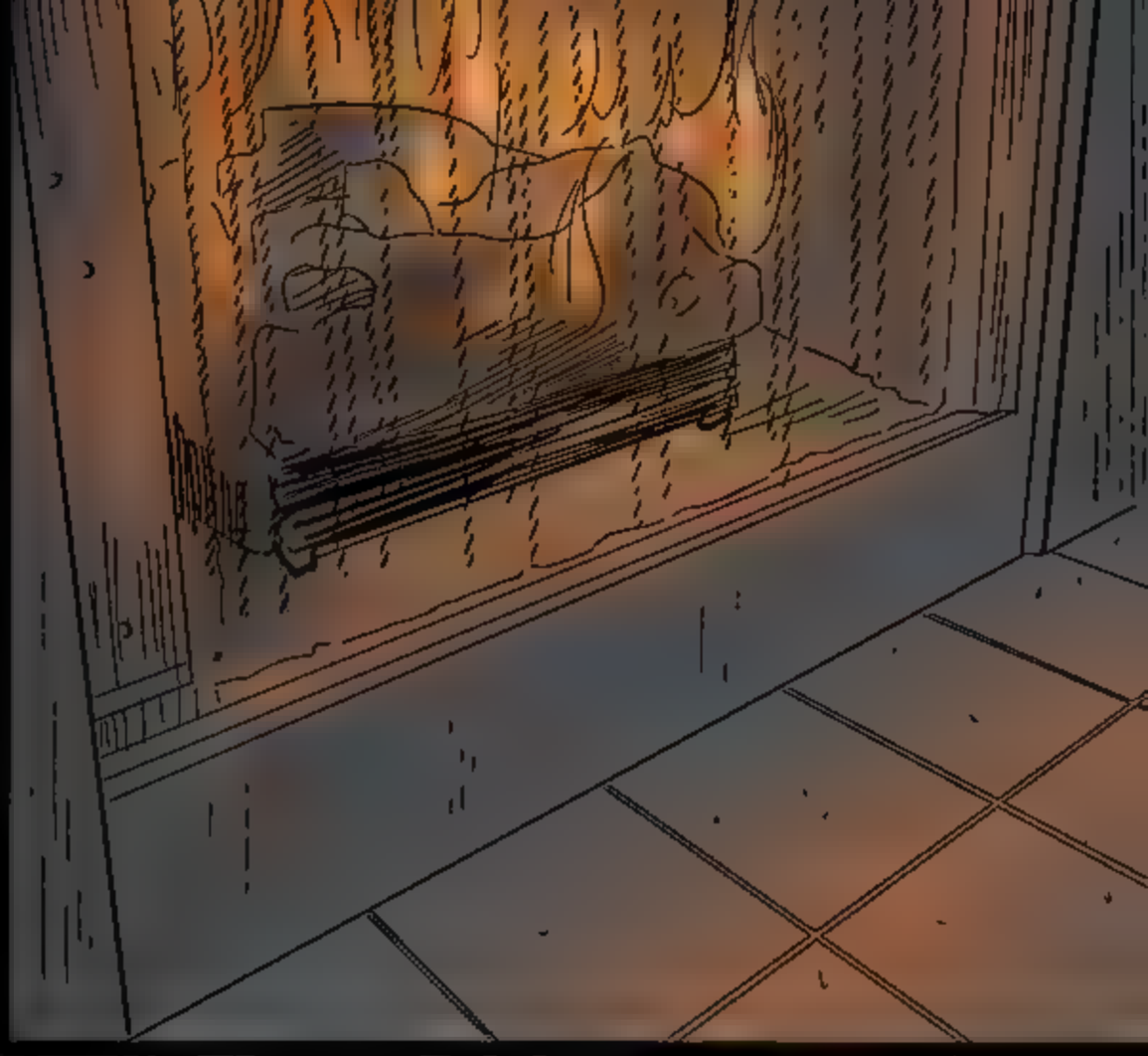

UGHHH...
SNUGGLE
JUST DON'T DO IT, OKAY?

BOO...
FELIX, YOU CAN'T JUST STICK FOOD IN RANDOM FIRE AND CALL IT COOKING...
THAT'S LITERALLY WHAT COOKING IS!

PUT FOOD IN FIRE TO MAKE HOT!

IT'S THE WAITING THAT'S KILLING US.

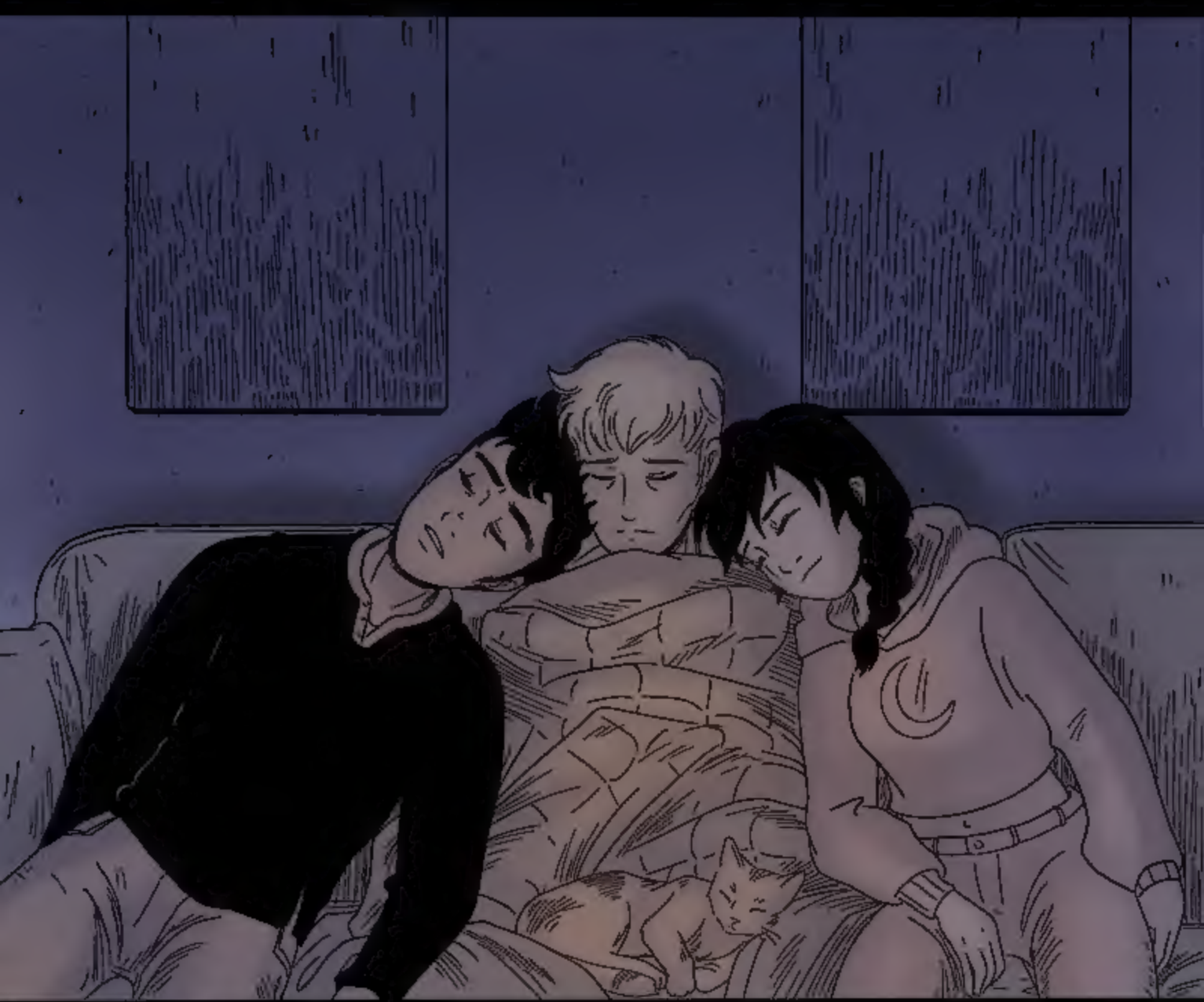




WAITING, WHILE WE RUN OUT OF OPTIONS.

WAITING WHILE
WE DO NOTHING.

IT'S TOO HARD.



I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO.